



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

**Montana Office
10 W. 15th St.; Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626
Phone 866-457-2690**

SDMS Document ID



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August 12, 2005

Ref: 8MO

Honorable Conrad Burns
U.S. Senate
Attention: Denise Smith
1845 Highway 93 South, Suite 210
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for forwarding Harold and Mary Winslow's request to EPA for a response. We have had many similar requests and are pleased to provide information to clarify the status of their property.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be performing the investigations and cleanup of the city of Troy. DEQ previously provided a letter to the Winslows stating that the property "is not included in the preliminary study area for the Troy Operable Unit of the Libby Asbestos Site." This means that the property is currently outside the Libby Asbestos Superfund site boundary. The fact that the Winslow's property is not within the boundaries of the Superfund site precludes DEQ from conducting an investigation on the property.

The Winslow's have wisely elected to have material from their property analyzed for asbestos by an independent laboratory and have results showing that it was not detected. While these results are favorable, EPA cautions residents that this does not guarantee that the property is *completely* free of asbestos contamination. Because of this and because the lab analysis does not address other potential hazardous substances or environmental concerns, EPA does not provide letters to residents stating that the property is uncontaminated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (406) 457-5001. You may also call the project manager, Peggy Churchill at 303-312-6137.

Sincerely,

John Wardell
Director
Montana Office



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